

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (New): A filling valve for aseptic filling of alimentary liquids comprising:

a valve body;

a filling mouth;

a feeding conduit configured such that a product stream to be filled into a container flows through the valve body out of the filling mouth; and

an auxiliary conduit configured to supply aseptic and/or inert gas and configured such that in an area near the filling mouth the product stream is isolated from the atmosphere by a coaxial flow of the aseptic and/or inert gas;

wherein the auxiliary conduit is arranged and configured such that the valve body is surrounded coaxially by the auxiliary conduit thereby ensuring that the aseptic and/or inert gas completely surrounds the product stream in a circumference direction.

Claim 8 (New): The filling valve of claim 7, wherein the valve body is configured for continuous outflowing of the aseptic and/or inert gas through the filling mouth for reducing a presence of oxygen in a top part of the container.

Claim 9 (New): The filling valve of claim 8, wherein the filling valve is configured to maintain the aseptic conditions of the filling valve also when the filling valve is closed.

Claim 10 (New): The filling valve of claim 9, wherein the auxiliary conduit, which is fed during a filling operation by a flow of the aseptic and/or inert gas for assuring an aseptic

condition of the filling process, is configured to be used for a re-circulation of a sanitizing fluid that is fed by the feeding conduit.

Claim 11 (New): The filling valve of claim 10, wherein during sanitation of the filling valve the filling mouth is closed by a lid in cooperation with a sliding manifold located on the valve body.

Claim 12 (New): A filling valve for an aseptic filling of alimentary liquids comprising:

a feeding conduit for a product stream to be filled in a container such that the product stream flows from a valve in an area near a filling mouth of the container underneath, wherein the product stream is isolated from the atmosphere by a coaxial flow of an aseptic and/or inert gas, which is fed by an auxiliary circuit surrounding the filling mouth, and wherein the auxiliary circuit, which is fed during a filling operation by a flow of the aseptic and/or inert gas for assuring an aseptic condition of the filling process, is configured to be used for a re-circulation of a sanitizing fluid fed by the feeding conduit; and

a lid, by which during sanitization of the filling mouth the valve is closed in cooperation with a sliding manifold, mounted on a body of the filling valve.